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COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
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Agenda item 6

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE SECOND PART OF ITS THIRTY-THIRD SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Wolfgang STÖCKL (Germany)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Section 12A. United Nations Environment Programme

1. At its 20th meeting, on 12 October, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the programme narrative of section 12A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations stressed the important role of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in the follow-up of Agenda 21. Some delegations expressed concern about the proposed reduction of resources under that section. They considered that, since the environment was one of the five priority areas for the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, there should have been proposals for increased resources.

3. Some delegations expressed the view that, although they were concerned by the proposed negative growth of 3.4 per cent, they would be ready to accept it if the reduction of resources was the result of streamlining in support services. Some delegations noted that the programme narrative failed to bring

out clearly the objectives to be achieved and, as a result, it was not possible to relate the resources with the objectives. They stressed the need for improved formulation of objectives in the future.

4. A number of delegations called for increased coordination and cooperation between UNEP and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (UNCHS) so as to achieve greater efficiency and rationalization of work. Some delegations emphasized the distinct roles and mandates of UNEP and of UNCHS and stressed the need to keep the two organizations separate.

5. Some delegations called for the equal treatment of New York, Geneva and Nairobi as United Nations centres.

6. Some delegations pointed out that there seemed to be overlap of activities between UNEP, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and urged that greater effort be exerted to avoid duplication in such areas as capacity-building, forestry and activities related to biodiversity. While supporting the call for greater coordination, some delegations underlined the need for each organization to carry out its mandated activities.

Conclusion and recommendation

7. The Committee noted with concern the projected decline in extrabudgetary resources and stressed the need to assess its impact on programmes. The Committee further recommended that a prompt solution be found to the proliferation of trust funds and the distortion that that might create on priorities and established mandates.

8. The Committee took note of the corrections to the programme narrative introduced by the representative of the Secretariat and recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 12A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.